

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN RELATION TO

Guano deposits on Arcas Cays.

JULY 25, 1892.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate:

I herewith transmit, in reply to the resolution of the Senate of June 6, 1892, a report from the Secretary of State, with its accompanying papers, in relation to guano deposits on Arcas Cays or islands.

BENJ. HARRISON.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, July 25, 1892.

The PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of June 6, 1892, requesting the President, if not incompatible with public interest, to transmit to the Senate—

complete copies of all papers heretofore at any time filed in the Department of State in any manner pertaining to the discovery or alleged discovery of deposits of guano on what are commonly known and called the "Arcas Cays," or any of them, being a group of three islands located in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, some 300 miles from Vera Cruz and about 120 miles from Campeachy, about latitude 20° 12' north, longitude 91° 59' west, together with dates of filing respectively, and also any information in the possession of such Department as to whether said Arcas Cays, or any of them, have at any time been or are now occupied or claimed by citizens of any other government than that of the United States; also whether now claimed by any government, and if any, what government and under what claim of right; also whether any satisfactory evidence has ever at any time been furnished to the Department of State that such Arcas Cays, or any of them, were not, at the time of any alleged discovery thereof or the taking possession and occupation thereof by any claimant or claimants, in the possession or occupation of any other government or of the citizens of any other government,

has the honor to forward herewith copies of all papers in relation to the discovery of guano, the filing of deeds and assignments, as desired by the resolution of the Senate.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN W. FOSTER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 25, 1892.

Accompaniments.

1. P. A. Quinan to Mr. Evarts, May 4, 1879.
2. S. C. Long to Mr. Evarts, June 27, 1879.
3. S. C. Long to Mr. Evarts, July 3, 1879.
4. Mr. Evarts to Mr. S. C. Long, July 10, 1879.
5. S. C. Long to Mr. Evarts, August 26, 1879, with inclosure.
6. J. W. Jennett to Mr. Evarts, September 3, 1879, with notice of discovery and affidavits.
7. S. C. Long to Mr. Evarts, September 6, 1879, with inclosure.
8. Messrs. Holmes & Adams to Mr. Evarts, March 9, 1880, with inclosure.
9. Messrs. Shellabarger & Wilson to the Secretary of State, April 19, 1880, with inclosures.
10. Joseph Thompson, jr., to Hon. John Critcher, June 1, 1881, with inclosure.
11. P. M. Snowden to the Secretary of State, November 21, 1884, with inclosure.
12. L. M. Simpson to the Secretary of State, January 9, 1885, with inclosure.
13. W. S. Odell to the Secretary of State, December 10, 1886, with inclosure.
14. John C. Parcel to Mr. Bayard, January 16, 1888, with inclosures.
15. John C. Parcel to the Secretary of State, June 30, 1890, with inclosure.
16. John C. Parcel to the Secretary of State, July 8, 1890, with inclosure.
17. Mr. J. W. Taylor to Mr. Blaine, June 6, 1891, with inclosure.
18. Mr. Fagan to the Secretary of State, October 10, 1891, with inclosure.

CARROLLTON HOTEL,
Baltimore, May 14, 1879. (Received May 16.)

SIR: I have the honor to state that I have discovered a valuable deposit of guano on "Arcas Cays," in about latitude 20° 15' north and longitude 92° west, located in the Gulf of Yucatan or Campeachy; that said cays were not, and to the best of my knowledge are not now, in the possession or occupancy of any nationality or individual, being many leagues from the nearest mainland and uninhabitable by reason of destitution of fresh water and vegetation, and that I purpose taking possession of these cays in the name of the United States and procuring and filing such evidence of my discovery as may enable the Department to favorably consider my right to the guano thereon, pursuant to the act of Congress, and in the meantime I would respectfully request an acknowledgment of the receipt of this communication.

I have the honor to be, etc.

PASCAL A. QUINAN, M. D.

Hon. WILLIAM M. EVARTS,
Secretary of State.

BALTIMORE, *June 27, 1879. (Received June 28.)*

SIR: On or about the 14th ultimo Dr. P. A. Quinan, of this city, by my advice filed in the Department of State notice of his discovery of deposits of guano on the Arcas Keys, rocks or islands in the Caribbean Sea, not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other government and not occupied by the citizens of any government. The discoverer desiring me to become interested with him in his claim, I desire in advance to know (and will be glad if you will advise me) if there is on file in your Department notice of any counterclaim for any like discovery on said Arcas Keys, either before or subsequent to the aforesaid notice of Dr. Quinan.

Wishing to proceed safely, I will be obliged for an early answer hereto.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

SYDNEY C. LONG.

Hon. W. M. EVARTS,
Secretary of State.

BALTIMORE, *July 3, 1879.* (Received July 4.)

SIR: On the 27th ultimo I had the honor to address the Department of State a note asking, in effect, whether or not there had been filed in your said Department, by any person or persons other than Dr. P. A. Quinan, of Baltimore, notice of discovery of guano deposits on the "Arcas" Keys or rocks in the Yucatan Sea.

The Department having very kindly and promptly answered my letter in regard to Jeannette's claim to Arenas written and mailed subsequent to my said letter of the 27th ultimo, I fear the latter failed to reach its destination, and this feeling must be my apology for this second letter.

I have the honor, etc.,

SYDNEY C. LONG.

Hon. WM. M. EVARTS,
Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 10, 1879.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated respectively the 27th June ultimo and 3d instant, making inquiry concerning the alleged discovery of guano on the Arcas Keys by Dr. Pascal A. Quinan, as reported by him to this Department in his letter of the 14th of May last.

In reply I have to inform you that there does not appear to have been any discovery of guano on the Arcas Keys reported to this Department either prior or subsequent to that alleged to have been made by Dr. Quinan.

I am, etc.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

SYDNEY C. LONG, Esq.,
Attorney at law, No. 5 St. Paul street, Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE, *August 26, 1879.* (Received August 27.)

SIR: As attorney for Dr. P. A. Quinan, of this city, I have the honor to transmit herewith for file in your Department the inclosed memorial and affidavit in reference to his discovery of a guano deposit at Arcas Keys (W. I.), in furtherance of the object of his report of such discovery made to the Department on the 14th of May last. I have also to request a certified copy of the same be transmitted to my address, inclosing fee for the same.

With high regard, I am, etc.,

SYDNEY C. LONG.

Hon. WM. M. EVARTS,
Secretary of State, U. S. A.

[Inclosure.]

To the Department of State of the United States of America and to all whom it may concern:

I, the subscriber, Pascal A. Quinan, a citizen of the United States, hereby give notice, in accordance with an act of Congress approved August 18, 1856, relating to guano islands.

That I did, in December, 1878, discover a deposit of guano on the Arcas Keys, three in number, situated on the Arcas Bank in the Caribbean Sea in or about latitude $20^{\circ} 15'$ north, longitude 92° west, and containing about 150,000 tons of guano.

That the above named keys and bank are not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other government or of the citizens of any other government.

That said keys and bank were wholly unoccupied by any human being at the time of the said discovery of said deposit of guano, and at the time of my said discovery *were* not in the possession or occupation of any other government or the citizens of any other government.

That I hoisted the United States ensign on said keys or on one of them in behalf of the whole, and took possession of said keys and bank in the name of the sovereignty of the United States of America, and that I remained in peaceable and quiet possession thereof.

That I estimate the value of said deposit of guano to be \$1 per ton, or \$150,000.

And I, Pascal A. Quinan, there pray that upon my furnishing further satisfactory evidence that said keys are not in the possession or occupancy of any other government or of the citizens of any other government that said keys and bank may be considered as appertaining to the United States of America; that the Government of the United States will protect me in my claim as the lawful and rightful owner of said deposit of guano by discovery and occupation according to said act of Congress giving protection to citizens of the United States who may discover deposits of guano on any island, rock, or key not occupied or within the lawful jurisdiction of any other government. And I further pray that the Government of the United States may recognize my right to work said deposit of guano in accordance with said act or the laws regulating the same.

Given under my hand and seal.

PASCAL A. QUINAN. [SEAL.]

STATE OF MARYLAND, *Baltimore City, set:*

On this 26th day of August, A. D. 1879, before the subscriber, one of the State of Maryland's justices of the peace in and for said city, personally appeared Pascal A. Quinan, of said city and State, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that the matters and things stated in the foregoing instrument of writing are just and true to the best of his knowledge.

Before

JOSHUA M. MYERS, J. P.

STATE OF MARYLAND, *Baltimore City, set:*

I hereby certify that Joshua M. Myers, esq., before whom the annexed affidavit was made, and who has thereto subscribed his name, was, at the time of so doing, a justice of the peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the city of Baltimore, duly commissioned and sworn.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and affix the seal of the superior court of Baltimore City this 26th day of August, A. D. 1879.

[SEAL.]

F. A. PREVOST,

Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City.

NEW YORK, *September 3, 1879.* (Received September 19.)

DEAR SIR: You will please accept my papers which I send by the bearer, George H. Bacon, esq., to be placed on file or record in the State Department, in accordance with the act of Congress passed August 18, 1856, which act I have complied with to the best of my abilities and as soon as practicable.

Which papers consist of notices and affidavits of discoveries of deposits of guano on islands and keys in the Gulf of Mexico, viz, the Arcas Islands and Keys, situated in latitude $20^{\circ} 12' 35''$ north, and longitude $91^{\circ} 59' 33''$ west, with copies of the same, which you will please certify to, with the seal of the Department of State, and return to the said George H. Bacon, esq., who will pay all charges for the same, and very much oblige,

Yours, most respectfully,

JAMES W. JENNETT.

Hon. WM. M. EVARTS,

Secretary of State of the United States.

[Inclosure.]

NOTICE.—ARCAS ISLANDS OR KEYS.

To the State Department of the United States, and to whom it may concern:

The subscriber, James W. Jennett, a citizen of the United States, does hereby give notice, in accordance with an act of Congress of the United States, passed August 18, 1856, concerning guano islands, etc.:

That I did on February 20, 1879, discover a deposit of guano on the Arcas Keys, consisting of three keys, Northeast Key, Southeast Key, and Little Key, situated on the western edge of the Campeche Bank, and in latitude $20^{\circ} 12' 35''$ north, and in longitude $91^{\circ} 59' 33''$ west, and are the southernmost of the various islands on said bank in the Gulf of Mexico, and they lay 80 nautical miles off shore west by north from Campeche on the coast of Mexico, as was surveyed by Commander E. Barnett of the Royal Navy, nearly half a century ago.

That the above-named islands and keys are not within the lawful jurisdiction of any government, or to my knowledge claimed by any government or the citizens of any government or occupied by any government, or the citizens of any government; neither were they ever inhabited by any government, or occupied by any human being.

That I first made this discovery of said deposit of guano in the year 1860, and also a number of others, some of which notices have been given in 1868 and in 1869, and some having been recognized in ex-Secretary Seward's and Hamilton Fish's time, and some under the present Secretary, Hon. William M. Evarts; and

That I have visited said islands a number of times and took away samples of the guano, which was in 1860, 1867, 1869, 1875, and in 1879; and

That I chartered, fitted out, and equipped the American schooner *Mary Matilda*, of Key West, Taylor, master, in February and March, 1879, and took with me witnesses whose affidavits are annexed, for the purpose of visiting said islands and keys, and to make said discoveries in accordance with the act of Congress aforesaid, of August 18, 1856; and

That I arrived at the Arcas Keys on the 20th of February, 1879. We landed on the Northeast Key, which is the largest of the three in number, and we erected a small house and flagstaff, and I assembled the crew and the witnesses and hoisted an American ensign and took possession of the said Arcas Keys in the name of the United States of America, and the deposits thereon; and

That we found the islands and keys totally derelict and uninhabited by any human being, neither were there any signs of there ever being any inhabitants on the islands, and I found the islands and the deposits undisturbed and the same as I left them in my former visits; and

That I remained in quiet, peaceable, and undisturbed possession until the 28th day of February, 1879, when I sailed for the United States, leaving my flag flying.

That I estimate the quantity of guano on all the islands to be about 250,000 tons; and I, the subscriber, James W. Jennett, pray that the Secretary of State of the United States will protect me in my claim as the lawful and rightful owner by discovery, and that the above-named islands, and keys, and deposits will be considered as appertaining to the United States of America, and recognize my rights by discovery, in accordance with the said act of Congress of August 18, 1856, giving protection to citizens of the United States who may discover deposits of guano on any island, rock, or key not within the lawful jurisdiction of any government, or claimed by any government, or the citizens of any government, etc.

That I may be able to work, ship, and sell said deposits to citizens of the United States, or the residents therein, for their use and benefit, according to the requirements of said act of Congress of August 18, 1856.

JAMES W. JENNETT.

NEW YORK, September 1, 1879.

Sworn to before me.

WM. H. VAN BRUNT,
Notary Public.

CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, ss:

Before me personally came J. W. Jennett, to me known to be the individual described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes therein mentioned.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 1st day of September, 1879.

[SEAL.]

WM. H. VAN BRUNT,
Notary Public, Kings County, New York State.

(Certificate filed in New York County.)

AFFIDAVITS.

Arcas Islands or Keys.

To whom it may concern, and to the Secretary of State of the United States:

This is to certify that we, the undersigned, citizens of the United States and seamen by occupation, was with Capt. James W. Jennett on a voyage in February and March, 1879, to a number of islands in the Gulf of Mexico, on board of the schooner *Mary Matilda*, of Key West; Taylor, master; chartered by Capt. J. W. Jennett for the voyage to these islands, viz: Alacrans, Arenas, Triangles, Arcas Keys, and Serranillas, which islands he had made discoveries of guano on, and for the purpose of taking possession of and obtaining samples of the guano.

That on the 20th day of February, 1879, we arrived at the Arcas Keys, situated on the western edge of the Campeche Bank, in or about lat. $20^{\circ} 12' 35''$ N., and long. $91^{\circ} 59' 33''$ west, and lay 80 miles directly off shore from Campeche in a west by north direction.

That we landed on the northeast island, which is the largest of them, three in number (3), and we built a small house or shanty, and put up a flag-staff, and hoisted an American ensign which we kept flying day and night during our stay on the islands, and which we left flying when we sailed on the 28th day of February, 1879; and that we were assembled by Capt. J. W. Jennett, who called upon us to witness and testify that he, being the discoverer of the deposits of guano on the said islands, that he, in accordance with an act of Congress of the United States, now hoisted the American flag, and that he now took the possession and occupation of the said islands and the deposits of guano in the name of the United States of America. And that we remained in quiet, peaceable, and undisturbed possession of the islands from the 20th to the 28th day of February, 1879, when we left, as he stated, to record and enter his claims in the Department of State, according to the laws of the United States, and to ship said guano to the United States for the benefit of the residents therein and whom it may concern; and that we found said islands uninhabited by any human beings, and saw no sign of them ever having been inhabited by anyone, excepting a few wrecked vessels or parts of vessels, being stranded on the barren rocks where no one would care to remain only to obtain guano deposits, which we found large quantities of, made by the excrement of the birds which swarm on the islands.

And from a very rough estimate we judge that there is two or three hundred cargoes of 1,000 tons each, on the northeast key or island, and a large quantity on the southeast key and little key. And we think that the islands from appearances were never inhabited, or the deposits were never disturbed for centuries.

That we found a good and smooth harbor with safe anchorage for vessels of any class, with abundance of fish, turtle, eggs, and birds, and that the deposits of guano are very handy for shipping in lighters and easy of access, and that we dug and took on board samples of the guano; and

That we, the undersigned, heartily recommend Capt. J. W. Jennett to the citizens of the United States for his energies and great ambition in searching for deposits of guano for the benefit of those in the guano trade, and the farming community, and United States at large, and for discovering immense deposits of guano, which is and undoubtedly will be a great benefit to the citizens and residents of the United States, and a great benefit to the commerce, and a great help to the farmers in obtaining a cheap fertilizer.

As we have known him for many years, and know of the immense quantities and numerous deposits he has discovered of rich and good guano, which was and is now being shipped to the United States, and we hope the Secretary of State of the United States will protect him in his rights as the discoverer of the above and other deposits of guano which he has taken possession of during this voyage, numbering three possessions and nine (9) islands or keys, viz: Alacrans (3 keys), Triangles (3 keys), and the Arcas Keys (3 keys), which contain in all about three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of a million of tons of guano, or about 750,000 tons, besides the numerous other islands discovered by him, which is a great benefit to the citizens of the United States as well as himself; and

That his honor the Secretary of State will recognize his rights and protect him in his claims, as the laws may direct, for the protection of citizens who may discover deposits of guano on any island, rock, or key, according to said act of Congress passed August 18, 1856.

JOHN F. LOWE,
JAMES A. LYNCH.

Sworn to before me this 1st day of Sept., 1879.

WM. H. VAN BRUNT,
Notary Public, Kings Co.

(Certificate filed N. Y. Co.)

CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, ss:

On this 1st day of September, 1879, before me personally came John F. Lowe and James A. Lynch, to me known to be the individuals described in and who executed the foregoing certificate, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes therein mentioned and made oath that the same was true.

Witness my hand and official seal at the city of New York aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

WM. H. VAN BRUNT,

Notary Public, Kings County, New York State.

(Certificate filed in New York County.)

STATE OF NEW YORK,

City and County of New York, ss:

I, Hubert O. Thompson, clerk of the city and county of New York, and also clerk of the supreme court for the said city and county, the same being a court of record, do hereby certify that William H. Van Brunt has filed in the clerk's office of the county of New York a certified copy of his appointment as notary public for the county of Kings with his autograph signature, and was at the time of taking the proof or acknowledgment of the annexed instrument duly authorized to take the same. And further, that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of such notary, and verily believe that the signature to the said certificate of proof or acknowledgment is genuine. I further certify that said instrument is executed and acknowledged according to law of the State of New York.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said court and county the 2d day of September, 1879.

[SEAL.]

HUBERT O. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*

BALTIMORE, MD., *September 6, 1879.* (Received September 8.)

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith, for filing in the Department of State, deed from P. A. Quinan to S. C. Long for certain interests in the Arcas and Arenas Keys (West Indies), and, if not trespassing, to ask for copy of same; for copy of James W. Jeannette's deeds or assignments in reference to "Arenas" to Hooper *et al.*; for copy of said Jeannette's deed to P. A. Quinan, filed July 31, 1879, and for copy of James W. Jeannette's petition, affidavit, etc., alleging discovery of deposit of guano on said Arenas Keys, remitting fee of 50 cents for seal, etc.

With high regard, etc.,

SYDNEY C. LONG,

5 St. Paul street, Baltimore, Md.

Hon. WM. M. EVARTS,

Secretary of State.

[Inclosure.]

Know all men by these presents, that I, Pascal A. Quinan, of Baltimore City, Maryland, for and in consideration of one dollar to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and in further consideration of valuable services rendered to me by Sydney C. Long, of said city and State, do hereby grant, sell, and convey, and by these presents have granted, sold, and conveyed unto the said Sydney C. Long, his heirs or assigns, in fee, one undivided fourth part of the "Arcas Keys" and bank, situate in the Caribbean Sea, West Indies, in or about latitude 20° 15' and longitude 92° W., the right and title to which I claim by right of discovery under and by virtue of the provisions of the act of Congress, U. S., approved August 18, 1856; also, one undivided moiety or equal half part of my *present* interest and interest that *may be acquired* hereafter in the "Arenas Keys" and bank, in the said Caribbean Sea.

Witness my hand and seal this 6th day of September, A. D. 1879.

PASCAL A. QUINAN. [SEAL.]

Attest:

JOSHUA M. MYERS.

STATE OF MARYLAND, *Baltimore City, Oct.:*

On this 6th day of September, A. D. 1879, before me, the subscriber, one of the State of Maryland's justices of the peace in and for Baltimore city aforesaid, personally came Pascal A. Quinan, of said city and State, party grantor in and to the foregoing deed or instrument of writing, and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed.

JOSHUA M. MYERS, J. P.

STATE OF MARYLAND, *Baltimore City, Oct.:*

I hereby certify that Joshua M. Myers, esquire, before whom the annexed acknowledgment was made, and who has thereto subscribed his name, was, at the time of so doing, a justice of the peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the city of Baltimore, duly commissioned and sworn.

In testimony whereof, I hereto set my hand and affix the seal of the superior court of Baltimore city, this 6th day of September, A. D. 1879.

[SEAL.]

F. A. PREVOST,
Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City.

NEW YORK, *March 9, 1880.* (Received March 11.)

SIR: On January 7 we wrote you a letter, of which the following is a copy:

Some time subsequent to September 1, 1879, James W. Jennett filed in the Department of State verified notice of discovery and occupation of certain guano keys or islands called "Arcas Keys."

Will you kindly inform us if there is on file in the Department any notice of former discovery of these keys by Jennett or others, the date of the filing above mentioned, and whether there has been filed in said Department any assignment of Jennett's rights, or claim against them (illegible in letter book) in that respect.

May we also ask if it be the practice of the Department to require proof of the exercise of the discretion of the President (as called for by section 5570 of the U. S. Rev. Stats.) before the Department recognizes the discoveries, rights, or the property as appertaining to the United States.

To this letter we received your response, which we have inclosed back to you, and upon the back of which Mr. J. W. Jennett has written a request that you supply us with the information desired.

Will you do us the favor of informing us as to the matters asked for in our original letter and oblige

Yours, respectfully,

HOLMES & ADAMS.

Hon. WM. M. EVARTS,

Secretary of State of the United States,

Washington, D. C.

[Inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 12, 1880.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 7th instant has been received. It has reference to the alleged discovery and occupation of certain guano keys or islands, called Arcas Keys, by one James W. Jennett who, you state, has filed in this Department, sometime subsequent to September 1, 1879, verified notices to this effect. You also inquire whether there is on file here any notice of former discovery of those islands or keys by Jennett or others; the date of the filing of the above mentioned notice, and further, whether there has been filed in this Department any assignment of Jennett's rights or claim against them or him in that respect.

In reply I have to advise you that the practice of the Department in such cases has been to furnish information of the character desired by you only to persons who may have a direct interest therein, either as attorney or claimant. Your letter furnishes no such evidence, and before a compliance with your request can be made you will please advise the Department more fully in regard thereto.

It may be proper to state for your information, however, in reply to the concluding paragraph of your letter, that the Department does not require of the claimant preliminary proof of the exercise of the discretion of the President as contemplated by section 5570 of the Revised Statutes of the United States cited by you.

I am, gentlemen, etc.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

Messrs. HOLMES & ADAMS,

Attorneys at law, 115 Broadway, New York City.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

The inquiries made in the letter of Messrs. Holmes & Adams, of January 7, within referred to, were made at my request and I request that you reply to them.

Yours, very truly,

J. W. JENNETT.

NEW YORK, *February 2, 1880.*

In the presence of S. T. Chambers, witness.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 19, 1880.* (Received April 21.)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES:

On behalf of Pascal A. Quinan, a citizen of the United States, and of the city of Baltimore, Md., we have the honor herewith to file in the Department of State, pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 5571 of the Revised Statutes, evidence in addition to that heretofore on or about the — day of May, A. D. 1879, and the 26th of August, 1879, filed in said Department, establishing that said Pascal A. Quinan is the discoverer of guano deposits upon the Arcas Keys, in the Gulf of Mexico, north latitude $20^{\circ} 12' 30''$ and west longitude $91^{\circ} 59' 39''$, and has complied with the provisions of title 72 of said Revised Statutes, and is entitled to the benefits secured by said statutes to such discovery.

We respectfully and earnestly beg that early and favorable attention may be given by the Government of the United States to this application, to the end that whatever rights may belong to the said applicant under the said statutes may be recognized and secured. The very large expenses necessarily incident to the taking and holding possession of said discovery render such early action extremely important to the discoverer.

Your obedient servants,

SHELLABARGER & WILSON,
For Quinan.

[Inclosure.]

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

In furtherance of the object of my notice of May last, of my discovery of guano deposits at the Arcas Keys in latitude $20^{\circ} 12' 30''$ north, longitude $91^{\circ} 59' 39''$ west, and subsequent affidavit and memorial of August 26, 1879, in reference thereto, I now depose that I landed on the northern or largest of these keys at 9 o'clock a. m. of the 12th day of January, 1880, in company with Capt. J. G. Bunker, John G. Wallis and certain colored laborers, and that I again, in the presence of these persons, hoisted the United States flag on these keys, or on one of them in behalf of all, and continued to display the same, in evidence that I continued to maintain possession of the Arcas Keys in the name of the United States.

That I found at the time of my discovery of the said deposits of guano, and at the time of taking possession thereof, these keys to be not occupied by the citizens of any other government than the United States nor by any person or persons whomsoever; and the same are not, as I verily believe, within the lawful jurisdiction of any other government. And I further declare that I took peaceable possession thereof in the name of the United States, and continue peaceably to occupy the same; and

there was at the time of my discovery and at the time of my landing, as hereinbefore set forth, no evidence or indication of said keys or either of them ever having been occupied by any other person than myself and those who went there with me and in my employ.

Said keys are described as follows: These keys are situated on a reef occupying a space of $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length northwest and southwest and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in breadth. The northern or largest of the keys, which I judge to be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and to average about 15 feet above high-water mark and to be about three-fourths of a mile wide at the widest part, has at the southern end a hill 21 feet high partially covered with grass and bushes. This key is located at the southeast end of the reef and is plainly discerned at a distance of 5 or 6 miles from the deck of a vessel.

The next key in size, which I judge to be about one-half mile long and about one-fourth of a mile wide, and about 12 feet above high-water mark, lies to the southeast of the northern or largest key; distant, 3 cables, or say 1,800 feet, and between them is a depth of from 6 to 10 fathoms water. There are also 10 fathoms to the southward of this key. The west key is nothing more than a mass of coral heads and loose coral boulders and is of insignificant size. It is surrounded by spurs of reef, all awash, and lies three-fourths of a mile to the westward of the northern key and about 2 miles from the eastern key. On the west side of the main reef there is a sheltered landing place or cove, which I make out to be in latitude $20^{\circ} 12' 30''$ north, and longitude $91^{\circ} 59' 38''$ west, bearing from the shoal part of the South Obispo, the nearest keys to these, SE. $\frac{1}{4}$ E. 20 miles, and from the town of Campeche, which is the nearest point of any mainland, being that of Yucatan, Mexico, W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N., distant 82 miles. On the west side there is anchorage, with the land and sea breeze, between the ends of the north and west reefs in 6 or 7 fathoms within one-half mile of the clean sand beach of the northern key.

I landed a force of laborers and commenced digging and shipping the guano, of which I believe there is 150,000 tons on these keys, worth say \$1 per ton. Of this I shipped a quantity to the United States, am about to ship additional cargoes of these deposits of guano on an extensive scale, for the benefit of citizens of the United States, and I now therefore renew my prayer that these keys may be considered as appertaining to the United States, and that my claim by discovery and by occupation to these guano deposits may be recognized by the Government in accordance with the statute, etc.

PASCAL A. QUINAN. [SEAL.]

Sworn and subscribed before me on the 16th day of April, A. D. 1880.

JOSHUA M. MYERS, J. P.

STATE OF MARYLAND, *Baltimore City, Set.:*

I hereby certify that Joshua M. Myers, esq., before whom the annexed affidavit was made, and who has thereto subscribed his name, was at the time of so doing a justice of the peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the city of Baltimore, duly commissioned and sworn.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and affix the seal of the superior court of Baltimore City, this 16th day of April, A. D., 1890.

[SEAL.]

F. A. PREVOST,

Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City.

[Inclosure.]

To whom it may concern:

I, the subscriber, depose that as master and agent of the schooner *Eben H King*, I chartered said vessel for a voyage to the Arcas Keys, in latitude $20^{\circ} 12' 30''$ north, longitude $91^{\circ} 59' 39''$ west, and landed with Dr. Pascal A. Quinan, John G. Wallis, and others on said keys, on January 12, 1880.

That Dr. Quinan hoisted the United States flag on said keys, or on one of them in behalf of all, and took possession of them in the name of the United States.

That Dr. Quinan landed a force of laborers, and dug and shipped a quantity of the guano, of which there is, at a rough estimate, perhaps 100,000 tons, more or less.

There were no human inhabitants on these keys, they being entirely without artificial improvements or appliances for human habitation of any kind, in short, absolutely desolate.

Dr. Quinan remained with his employes in undisputed possession of these keys, which possess a good harbor and plenty of fish and turtle in the surrounding waters.

JAMES G. BUNKER.

STATE OF DELAWARE, *County of Sussex, ss:*

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 27th day of February, A. D. 1880.

[SEAL.]

JOS. LAFETRA,

Notary Public.

LEWES, DEL.

STATE OF DELAWARE, *County of Sussex, ss:*

I, Henry W. Long, prothonotary of the superior court of the State of Delaware, in and for the county of Sussex, do hereby certify that Joseph Lafetra is notary public, appointed November 28, 1876.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court at Georgetown this 27th day of February, A. D. 1880.

[SEAL.]

H. W. LONG,
Prothonotary.

[Inclosure.]

I, the subscriber, John G. Wallis, a citizen of the United States, depose that I landed with Pascal A. Quinan on the largest of the "Arcas" Keys lying in latitude 20° 12' 30" north, and longitude 91° 59' 39" west, on the 12th day of January, 1880.

That the said Quinan went to these keys in a vessel, the schooner *Eben H. King*, especially chartered for the purpose, with laborers and appliances to dig and ship the guano therefrom.

That the said Pascal A. Quinan hoisted the United States flag on said keys, or on one of them in behalf of all, in evidence that he retained possession of them in the name of the United States from date of his original discovery of the guano deposits thereupon.

That the "Arcas" Keys were at the above date of my landing, and the said Quinan's taking possession and occupation, utterly desolate and devoid of human habitation or beings.

That the said Quinan remained in quiet and undisputed possession of the Arcas Keys up to date of sailing therefrom.

That there is upon these keys a large deposit of guano aggregating perhaps 100,000 tons more or less.

That there is a good harbor and an abundance of fish and turtle.

Given under my hand at Philadelphia, Pa., this 20th day of March, A. D. 1880.

JNO. G. WALLIS.

Witnesses present,

HENRY F. WALTON,
CHARLES H. MINTZER.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, *State of Pennsylvania, ss:*

And now, March 20, 1880, personally appeared before me the subscriber, Henry F. Walton, a notary public for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing at Philadelphia, the above-named John G. Wallis, and being duly sworn according to law, says that the facts set forth in the foregoing affidavit are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Witness my hand and official the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

HENRY F. WALTON,
Notary Public.

WASHINGTON, D. C., ST. CHARLES HOTEL,
6 May (June ?) 1881. (Filed June 6, 1881.)

The Hon. Secretary of State is respectfully requested to file in his Department the annexed deed or indenture from Pascal A. Quinan and others to William L. Adams, dated 7 May, 1881, leasing certain islands in the Gulf of Mexico, and to furnish me with a certified copy thereof.

Most respectfully,

JOHN CRITCHER.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., June 1, 1881. (Received June 6.)

DEAR SIR: Inclosed find letter of introduction from Col. James H. Thorp. Also a lease from Pascal A. Quinan and others to William L. Adams, which I have taken the liberty to send to you to have recorded or filed. If it is to be filed please have certified copy of same made and sent to me. Also send the amount of the bill. I would not trouble you with this matter, but I do not know to what Department to send. By giving this matter your attention you will greatly oblige,

Yours, etc.,

JOS. THOMPSON, JR.

Hon. JOHN CRITCHER.

[Enclosure.]

This indenture, made this seventh day of May, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, between Pascal A. Quinan, of the city of Baltimore and State of Maryland, John G. Wallis and George C. Harrison, of the city of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, hereinafter called the lessors, of the one part, and William L. Adams, of Atlantic City and State of New Jersey, hereinafter called the lessee, of the other part, witnesseth: That the said lessors for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars to them in hand paid by the said lessee at and before the signing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby let unto the said lessee the island of Arenas or Arenas Key, situate on the Campeachy Bank, in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about lat. $22^{\circ} 7' 10''$ N. and long. $91^{\circ} 24' 30''$ W. Also the Arcas Keys, three in number, situate on the Arcas Bank, in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about lat. $20^{\circ} 15'$ N., long. $91^{\circ} 55'$ W., for the term of twenty years, together with the full, free, and exclusive right, liberty, and privilege of the said lessee, his executors, administrators, and assigns, to go upon the said island and keys to mine, excavate, and carry away therefrom during the first year of said term any amount of guano, at the option of the said lessee, and during the second year at least four thousand tons, and every year thereafter until the expiration of this lease to remove from the said island and keys at least five thousand tons of guano, the said lessee paying to the said lessors the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars on landing the first cargo of guano in the United States, and the sum of one dollar for each and every ton of guano removed as aforesaid from said island and keys when landed in the United States.

And this agreement further witnesseth that the said lessee shall be entitled to all of the tools, implements, and machinery found upon the said island and keys and the buildings, sheds, wharves, and improvements thereon erected, and shall hereafter during said term have the sole and exclusive right to erect, set up, and take down and remove, and again to rebuild and set up and take down and remove, on any parts of the said island and keys, any houses, sheds, buildings, works, wharves, or machinery, and to do all other things which shall from time to time be necessary and convenient for the better and more effectual mining, excavating, and removing the deposits of guano from the said island and keys.

And this agreement further witnesseth that the said lessors, for themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant to and with the said lessee, his heirs and assigns, by these presents:

1st. That there is already mined on the island of Arenas aforesaid fifteen hundred tons of guano;

2nd. That he the said lessee, his heirs and assigns, shall and may from time to time during the said term peaceably and quietly have, hold, and enjoy all and singular the said premises hereby let and demised without the hindrance or denial or interruption of any person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim any right, title, or interest at law or in equity in, to, or out of the same, or any part thereof;

3rd. That they, the said lessors, shall and may from time to time, and at all times hereafter, defend any suits that should be brought by any person or persons against the said lessee, his heirs and assigns, and to pay all costs, charges, damages, and expenses that shall or may happen to arise by reason of any claim made to the said island or keys or any claim for royalty on guano mined, excavated, or removed therefrom.

4th. That they, the said lessors, now have in themselves good right, full power, lawful and absolute authority to let and demise the said island and keys in manner aforesaid.

5th. That in case the said lessee finds that the deposits of guano on the said island and keys can not be mined, excavated, or removed with profit to himself, he, the said lessee, shall have the right and privilege of determining this lease at any time.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have set their hands and affixed their seals the day and date aforesaid.

JOHN G. WALLIS.	[SEAL.]
GEO. C. HARRISON.	[SEAL.]
WILLIAM L. ADAMS.	[SEAL.]
PASCAL A. QUINAN.	[SEAL.]

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of—

HENRY R. EDMUNDS.
GEORGE BLAESE.
JOHN W. ADAMS.

On the 7th day of May, A. D. 1881, before me, the subscriber, a notary public, duly commissioned under and by virtue of laws of Pennsylvania and residing at Philadelphia, personally appeared the above-named John G. Wallis, George C. Harrison,

and William L. Adams, and in due form of law acknowledged the above indenture to be their act and deed, and desired the same might be recorded as such.

Witness my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

GEORGE BLAESE,
Notary Public.

On the 23d day of May, 1881, before me, the subscriber, a notary public, duly commissioned under and by virtue of laws of Pennsylvania, and residing at Philadelphia, personally appeared the above-named Pascal A. Quinan, and in due form of law acknowledged the above indenture to be his free act and deed, and desired the same might be recorded as such.

Witness my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

GEORGE BLAESE,
Notary Public.

BALTIMORE, *November 21, 1884.*

DEAR SIR: I very respectfully inclose herewith, to be filed in your Department, a deed from Pascal A. Quinan to Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore City, State of Maryland, conveying all his interest in certain guano islands, three of them called the "Seranillas," in the Caribbean Sea, and three of them called the "Arcas," in the Gulf of Mexico. The deed is dated 13th day of October, A. D. 1884. Your kind acknowledgment of same will greatly oblige,

Yours, very truly, etc.,

P. M. SNOWDEN,

Southwest corner Charles and Fayette streets, Baltimore, Md.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, D. C.

This deed, made this thirteenth day of October, A. D. 1884, by Pascal A. Quinan, of the city of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, United States of America,

Witnesseth: That for and in consideration of the sum of twenty-six thousand dollars in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said Pascal A. Quinan doth hereby grant, convey, and assign unto Philip M. Snowden, of said city and State, his heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, all his right, title, and interest, under the United States law, in the following-described property, being guano deposits as follows, viz: To three islands or cays, situate, lying, and being in the Caribbean Sea in or about latitude between 15° and 16° N. and longitude 79° and 48' W. and 80° W., and known as the "Seranilla Cays;" and also to the following described property, viz: Three (undivided) fourths interest in the guano deposits situate, lying, and being on the three cays known as the "Arcas Cays," situate, lying, and being in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about latitude 20° N. and longitude 91° W., all of which before-mentioned cays are claimed and held by the aforesaid Quinan, under the U. S. statute approved August 18, A. D. 1856, and is as follows: "When any citizen or citizens of the United States may have discovered or shall hereafter discover a deposit of guano on any island, rock, or cay, not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other government and not occupied by the citizens of any other government and shall take peaceable possession thereof, and occupy the same, said island, rock, or cay may, at the discretion of the President of the United States, be considered as appertaining to the United States," etc., etc.

The following are notes of title, discovery, and taking possession of guano and of islands in the name of the United States, December, A. D. 1878: Notice of said discovery given May 16, A. D. 1879; memorial and affidavit filed with same August 26th, A. D. 1879; landed with many others January 12, A. D. 1880, and have occupied and shipped guano thence until recently. Lieut. Commanding Ackley, United States Navy, hoisted the American ensign or flag and saluted the same on said cays in January, A. D. 1880, and they are acknowledged as American guano islands by the U. S. Treasury Department, which has cleared all cargoes thence coastwise. The Solicitor of the Department of State reported favorably as to my title to said guano deposits and the Government recognizes these as U. S. guano islands under the statute, and the deposits thereon belonging to me by right of discovery.

Now, therefore, I, Pascal A. Quinan, for myself, my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, in consideration of the aforesaid amount of money and the further sum of one dollar in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby convey all my right, title, and interest in and to the said islands and guano deposits to Philip M. Snowden, his heirs and assigns forever, together with the buildings and improvements and every appurtenance thereupon, and the rights, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances, and advantages thereunto belonging or in any wise or way appertaining, to have and to hold the said described ground and premises unto the said Philip M. Snowden, his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Pascal A. Quinan covenants that he will warrant especially the property hereby conveyed and that he will at any time, when demanded, execute such further assurance as may be demanded.

Witness my hand and seal.

PASCAL A. QUINAN. [SEAL.]

Test:

MURRAY HANSON.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
State of Maryland, City of Baltimore, ss:

Be it known that on this 13th day of October, 1884, before me the subscriber, a notary public by letters patent under the great seal of the State of Maryland, commissioned and duly qualified, residing in the city of Baltimore, in the State aforesaid, personally appeared Pascal A. Quinan, party to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

MURRAY HANSON,
Notary Public.

(Endorsed:) Deed of conveyance of certain guano desposits held and claimed under U. S. statutes by Dr. P. A. Quinan, and from him to Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore City, Maryland.

PHILADELPHIA, *January 9, 1885.* (Received January 13.)

SIR: Please record the within agreement and send me a certified copy thereof, together with a memoranda of costs which I shall be pleased to remit.

Very truly, yours,

L. M. SIMPSON.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE,
Department of State, Washington, D. C.

Articles of agreement, made this seventh day of January A. D. 1885, between Paschal A. Quinan of the city of Baltimore and State of Maryland, of the one part, and Henry Harper of the city of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania of the other part, as follows:

Whereas said Paschall A. Quinan is the owner of certain deposits of guano upon Arcas Islands, and Arenas Island, located in the Gulf of Mexico, which said deposits he is desirous of assigning and conveying unto said Henry Harper upon the terms and conditions to wit:

(1) That the said Henry Harper shall pay unto said Paschall A. Quinan the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars upon the execution and delivery of this agreement.

(2) That the said Henry Harper shall pay unto said Paschall A. Quinan the sum of fifty dollars per month until said Henry Harper shall land a cargo of said guano at a port within the United States when said monthly payment shall cease and determine, said payments to commence one month from execution and delivery of this agreement.

(3) That on and after the delivery or landing of said first cargo as aforesaid, the said Paschall A. Quinan shall be entitled to and receive a royalty of fifty cents per ton upon all guano he, said Henry Harper, shall take or cause to be taken from said island, and the said Henry Harper guarantees and agrees that not less than three thousand tons of guano shall be taken from said islands per annum.

(4) That upon the return and landing of the said first cargo by said Henry Harper, the said Paschall A. Quinan hereby agrees and binds himself to grant, convey, and assign said islands of Arcas and Arenas unto said Henry Harper in fee subject only to said royalty of fifty cents per ton, and a good sufficient deeds, conveyances and assurances to make, execute, acknowledge, and delivery unto said Henry Harper, his heirs and assigns forever.

All obligations incurred and rights given under this agreement shall extend to the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

Witness our hands and seals the day and year aforesaid.

PASCAL A. QUINAN. [L. S.]
HENRY HARPER. [L. S.]

Sealed and delivered in the presence of—

DE FORREST BALLOU,
A. L. HENNERSCHOTZ.

On the 7th day of January A. D. 1885, before me the subscriber, a notary public for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing at Philadelphia, personally appeared the above named Paschall A. Quinan and Henry Harper and in due form of law acknowledged the above agreement to be their and each of their act and deed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

A. LUCIUS HENNERSCHOTZ,
Notary Public.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, *County of Philadelphia, ss :*

I, William B. Mann, prothonotary of the court of common pleas of said county, do certify that A. Lucius Hennerschotz, esq., before whom the annexed acknowledgment was made, was at the time of so doing a notary public in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified to administer oaths and affirmations and to take acknowledgments, etc., and to all whose acts, as such, full faith and credit are and ought to be given, as well in courts of judicature as elsewhere, said court being a court of record; and that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of the said A. Lucius Hennerschotz, and verily believe his signature thereto is genuine, and I further certify that the said instrument is executed and acknowledged in conformity with the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court, this 9th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1885.

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM B. MANN,
Prothonotary.

Recd. Phila. 9 January, 1885, of Henry Harper, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars in full for amount mentioned in paragraph marked No. 1 in the within agreement.

\$150.

PASCAL A. QUINAN.

Witness:

DE FORREST BALLOU.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 10, 1886.*

SIR: I herewith hand you for file certified copy of contract between Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore, Md., of first part, and Richard Contee and W. S. Odell, trustees, party of the second part, relating to Arcas Cays Islands guano deposits.

Please acknowledge receipt and give information as to whether any other papers affecting title or otherwise to said deposits of guano—and the character of said papers—have been filed since April 26, 1886.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully,

W. S. ODELL,
Lock box 559, City.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE,
Present.

[Copy.]

Whereas Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore City, State of Maryland, party of the first part to this agreement and contract, owns the guano deposits at and on the Arcas Cays, in the Gulf of Mexico, Richard Contee and Wm. S. Odell, trustees, parties of the second part, of Washington City, D. C., hereby agree to purchase an undivided one-half of the said party of the first part's interest in said deposits, and the said party of the first part agrees to sell unto the said parties of the second part, said interest on the following terms and conditions, viz:

First. The parties of the second part are to deposit in the hands of the party of the first part the sum of eighteen hundred (\$1,800.00) dollars; so much thereof as may be necessary to be applied and used for the proper equipment and outfitting of a vessel and for the payment of one month's wages in advance for laborers, cook, and foreman not exceeding fifteen in number in all; to make a voyage to said cays and bring back thence to the United States a cargo of guano.

Second. In consideration of one dollar in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, it is agreed that as a further consideration for said advance of eighteen (\$1,800.00) hundred dollars, the said party of the first part binds himself and agrees to sell, transfer, and convey unto the parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns (and it is made a part of this contract that he shall so sell, transfer, and convey), one-half of his interest in said guano deposits for the sum of thirteen thousand dollars, hereby made payable as follows, viz: On the sale of the first and of each subsequent cargo, one-half of the net profits of the said purchased one-half of his interest shall be paid to the said party of the first part, until said sum of thirteen thousand dollars is fully paid and liquidated to him, and said deferred payments shall constitute a full and valid lien on each cargo.

Third. And when said sum of thirteen thousand dollars shall have been fully paid to said party of the first part, he, the said party of the first part, shall immediately thereupon execute a valid deed to said parties of the second part, or their heirs, administrators, or assigns, for one-half of his interest in said guano deposits, share and share alike.

Fourth. And it is hereby further agreed that the said sum of eighteen hundred (\$1,800.00) dollars so advanced by said parties of the second part to the party of the first part, shall be repaid and returned to the said party of the second part, out of and from the net profits of the sale of the first cargo that shall be brought from said cays, or credited against the hereinbefore expressed sum of the purchase money to be paid to the party of the first part, for one-half of his interest.

Fifth. And it is hereby further agreed that the said parties of the second part hereby bind themselves to purchase the aforesaid interest of the party of the first part on the terms aforesaid, the aforesaid sum of eighteen (\$1,800.00) hundred dollars to be paid over and advanced to him upon the signing and delivery of these presents.

Sixth. It is further agreed and all parties hereunto do bind themselves faithfully to perform each and every covenant herein expressed, and the party of the first part binds himself to proceed without delay to expend and use said sum so advanced, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to equip, fit out, and dispatch a vessel to said Arcas Cays, to mine, dig, ship, develop, and operate for the pecuniary advantage according to their respective interests of all, each and every party concerned in this contract of said guano deposits at said Arcas Cays.

Seventh. And it is further agreed by the party of the first part that the parties of the second part shall have and enjoy the privilege to send out a person or agent of their selection on the first voyage to return with said vessel, with such instructions as they may give him to investigate and report to them as to said guano deposits.

Eighth. And it is further agreed that the party of the first part reserves to himself the right to select and send out a competent person as superintendent, physician, and chemist on said first voyage.

Ninth. And it is further agreed that in the event of the parties of the second part not desiring or declining upon the expiration of the first voyage to continue in the fulfilment, benefits, and obligations of this agreement, they hereby bind themselves, their heirs, and assigns, upon the repayment to them of the sum of eighteen (\$1,800.00) hundred dollars, by them advanced, as hereinbefore recited, to immediately indemnify themselves, or by their legally authorized attorney, or by their heirs or assigns, or his or their proper attorney, to promptly, fully, and absolutely release the party of the first part of all, each, and every covenant and obligation binding on him, his heirs, and assigns, as contained, specified, and recited in this special agreement and contract. And this notwithstanding that it is fully agreed and understood that this contract and agreement is made in the most perfect good faith, and that it is the intention and earnest desire of all, each and every party or parties hereto, to carry out to the fullest extent the meaning and import of this agreement and contract.

Tenth. It is hereby agreed and further understood that the sum of eighteen (\$1,800.00) hundred dollars, hereinbefore recited, as advanced by the parties of the

second part, shall be further secured to them by a claim or lien upon the entire guano deposits at the Arcas Cays, which the party of the first part pledges hereby in good faith for the repayment of the same.

Eleventh. And it is declared to be the true meaning and intent of this contract that the work of mining, shipping, and developing the guano deposits at Arcas Cays shall be prosecuted with the utmost diligence, now it is agreed and understood that the guano shall be handled and shipped to market as rapidly and to the fullest extent in quantity which the markets will justify. And in furtherance of this clause it is hereby understood between the contracting parties hereto that each of the said parties are to contribute their proportional parts of the expense attendant upon the equipment of each subsequent vessel, as well as all other incidental expenses belonging thereto.

Witness our hands and seals this the 26th day of April, 1886.

Done at Washington, D. C.

P. M. SNOWDEN, [SEAL.]
 RICHARD CONTEE, [SEAL.]
 and W. S. ODELL, [SEAL.]
Trustees.

Witnesses:

J. D. CROISSANT,
 J. F. VINAL.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original compared by me this 10th day of December, A. D. 1886.

Washington, D. C.

[SEAL.]

BENJ. F. HAWKES,
Notary Public.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 16, 1888.*

SIR: I inclose herewith for filing in your Department the following papers referring to "Arcas Cays" guano deposits.

I. Agreement and contract from Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore, Md., to John C. Parcel and John O. Silvers, of Washington, D. C., dated February 4, 1887.

II. Contract between John C. Parcel and John Silvers of same date as above.

III. Deed from Philip M. Snowden (above) to Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcell (above) dated May 7, 1887.

IV. Deed from John C. Parcel and Sayles J. Bowen, of Washington, D. C., to George B. Starkweather, of same place, dated September 27, 1887.

V. Deed from Sidney C. Long, of Baltimore, Md., to George B. Starkweather, of Washington, D. C., dated December 12, 1887.

VI. Agreement and contract from George B. Starkweather, of Washington, D. C., to John C. Parcel and John O. Silvers, of the same place, dated December 31, 1887.

Please acknowledge receipt and oblige,

Very respectfully, yours,

JOHN C. PARCEL.

Hon. T. F. BAYARD,

Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

This agreement, made this fourth day of February, 1887, by and between Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore City, Maryland, party of the first part, and John C. Parcel and John O. Silver, both of Washington, D. C., parties of the second part, witnessed:

That the party of the first part agrees to give, grant, sell, and convey by a good and sufficient deed, in conformity with the statutes of the United States in such cases made and provided, to the parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns,

in consideration of the sum of thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000), payable as hereinafter specified, an undivided one-half interest in the following property, to wit: Certain guano islands in the Gulf of Mexico known as the Las Arcas Cays, situated, lying, and being in the Gulf of Mexico, in latitude twenty degrees north, and in longitude ninety-one degrees west, as per deed dated October 13, 1884, from Pascal A. Quinan to said Philip M. Snowden, and registered in the State Department of the United States, as from the files of said Department will show. Payments to be made as follows:

Three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in cash to be paid by the party of the second part to the party of the first part.

Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to remain as a lien upon one-fourth of the one-half interest mentioned to be conveyed by the party of the first part to the parties of the second part, with the understanding that the same is to be paid out of the profits arising from said one-fourth interest from the guano business pertaining thereto in the proportion to the net proceeds from each cargo as sold and paid for.

That the parties of the second part, in consideration of the above-recited premises, agree to furnish or cause to be furnished to the party of the first part one or more purchasers that shall pay to the party of the first part the aforesaid sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in cash, together with the lien of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as aforesaid, either upon the portion thus resold or upon that portion retained by the parties of the second part, either in whole or in part, as the parties of the second part may determine.

That the party of the first part agrees that there shall be no additional assessments upon the parties of the second part for any expenses attending the expedition to the property on the first trip, unless it be for freight demanded and made payable in advance by the owner or owners of any vessel secured for such purpose.

This contract is made contingent upon the payment of not exceeding eighteen hundred dollars (\$1,800) to William S. Odell and Richard Contee, trustees under a previous contract made by the party of the first part hereto, and which is to be met out of the aforesaid cash payment of three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

And it is further understood and agreed that should the parties of the second part fail to procure the said sum of thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000) within the space of fifteen days from the date hereof, then and in that event this agreement becomes absolutely null and void, and the party of the first part by consent hereto becomes entirely released from all obligation herein contained.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto mutually set our hands and seals this day and year first above written.

(In triplicate.)

P. M. SNOWDEN, [SEAL.]

(Party of the first part.)

JOHN C. PARCEL, [SEAL.]

(Party of the second part.)

JOHN O. SILVERS, [SEAL.]

(Party of the second part.)

Attest:

THOS. B. QUEEN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 7, 1887.

This is to certify that I have, at John C. Parcel and John O. Silver's request, conveyed a one-eighth interest of the property herein specified to Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, in consideration of two thousand dollars.

P. M. SNOWDEN.

This agreement, made and entered into this fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, by and between John C. Parcel, party of the first part, and John O. Silver, party of the second part, both of Washington, D. C., witnesseth:

That whereas the parties hereto have entered into a contract of even date herewith with Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore, Maryland, for the purchase and disposition of a one-half interest in certain guano islands in the Gulf of Mexico, known as the Las Arcas Keys, being three in number, and more particularly described in said contract and in the charts of the United States Coast Survey.

Now, therefore, it is hereby mutually agreed by the parties hereto that in consideration of the experience of the party of the first part in the management of contracts of a similar character, that in case the parties hereto succeed in complying with the terms of said contract with said Philip M. Snowden, by the sale or disposi-

tion of less than one-half of their combined interest therein bargained, then and in that case the remainder of said one-half of their combined interest shall belong alone to the party of the first part, and the party of the second part hereby releases all claim to the same or any part thereof in favor of the party of the first part, and hereby authorizes and requires the said Philip M. Snowden to convey the same direct to the party of the first part, anything in said contract between the said Philip M. Snowden and the parties hereto to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided, always, That this agreement does not in any manner affect the title to the remaining half of said interest of the parties hereto, the same being governed solely by the said contract between the said Philip M. Snowden and the parties hereto.

In witness thereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this day and year first above written.

(Signed in duplicate.)

JOHN C. PARCEL. [SEAL.]
(Party of the first part.)

JOHN O. SILVERS. [SEAL.]
(Party of the second part.)

Attest:

THOS. B. QUEEN.

This indenture, made this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, by and between Philip M. Snowden, of the city of Baltimore and State of Maryland, and Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, of Washington, D. C., witnesseth:

That for and in consideration of the sum of two thousand dollars in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said Philip M. Snowden doth hereby grant, convey, and assign to the said Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel all his right, title, and interest in and to an undivided ($\frac{1}{8}$) one eighth interest in the following described property, to wit: guano deposits lying and being on the three cays known as the "Arcas Cays," situate, lying, and being in the Gulf of Mexico in or about latitude 20 degrees north and longitude 91 degrees west, all of which interest in said cays is claimed and held by the aforesaid Philip M. Snowden (under sections 5570 to 5578, inclusive, of the statutes of the United States of America, and approved August 10, 1856) by deed of assignment and conveyance from Pascal A. Quinan, the original discoverer of said guano deposits, to the said Philip M. Snowden, dated October 13th, 1884, and on file in the Department of State of the United States of America.

Now, therefore, I, Philip M. Snowden, for myself, my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, in consideration of the aforesaid amount of money and the further sum of one dollar in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby convey all my right, title, and interest in and to the said undivided ($\frac{1}{8}$) one-eighth interest in said Arcas Cays and the guano deposits thereon to the said Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, their heirs and assigns forever, together with a ($\frac{1}{8}$) one-eighth undivided interest in the buildings and improvements and every appurtenance thereupon; and in the rights, ways, water privileges, appurtenances, and advantages thereunto belonging or in any wise or way appertaining; to have and to hold the said ($\frac{1}{8}$) one-eighth undivided interest in said described ground and premises unto the said Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, their heirs and assigns forever; and the said Philip M. Snowden covenants that he will warrant especially the property hereby conveyed and that he will at any time when demanded execute such further conveyance as may be demanded.

Witness my hand and seal this day and year first above written.

[SEAL.]

P. M. SNOWDEN.

Attest:

J. O. SILVERS,
SAML. C. MILLS.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *County of Washington*, ss:

I, Sam. C. Mills, a notary public in and for the county aforesaid, do hereby certify that Philip M. Snowden, party to a certain deed bearing date on the 7th day of May, A. D. 1887, and hereto annexed, personally appeared before me in said county, and the said Philip M. Snowden being personally well known to me to be the person who executed the said deed and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this 7th day of May, 1887.

[SEAL]

SAM. C. MILLS,
Notary Public.

This indenture, made this 27th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, by and between Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, of Washington City, in the District of Columbia, parties of the first part, and George B. Starkweather, party of the second part, witnesseth:

That for and in consideration of the sum of two thousand dollars in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said parties of the first part do hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey, and assign to the party of the second part all their right, title, and interest in and to an undivided one-sixteenth ($\frac{1}{16}$) interest in the following-described property, to wit:

Guano deposits lying and being on three cays known as the "Arcas Cays," situate, lying, and being in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about latitude twenty degrees (20°) north and longitude ninety-one degrees (91°) west, (all of which interest in said cays is claimed and held by said Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel under sections 5570 to 5578, inclusive, of the statutes of the United States of America approved August 10, 1856, and by deed from Pascal A. Quinan, the original discoverer of said guano deposits, to Philip M. Snowden, dated October 13th, 1884, and on file in the Department of State of the United States of America, and by further deed from the said Philip M. Snowden to the said Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, parties of the first part aforesaid).

To have and to hold unto the said George P. Starkweather, his heirs and assigns forever, the foregoing described ($\frac{1}{16}$) undivided interest in said "Arcas Cays" and the guano deposits thereon, together with a one-sixteenth ($\frac{1}{16}$) undivided interest in the buildings and improvements, and every appurtenance thereon, and in the rights, ways, water privileges and advantages thereto belonging or in any wise or way appertaining.

And the said Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, parties of the first part, do hereby covenant that they will warrant especially the property herein conveyed and that they will at any time when demanded execute such other and further conveyance as may be demanded and deemed necessary.

Witness our hand and seals this day and year first above written.

Witness.

WM. M. SMITH.

SAYLES J. BOWEN. [SEAL.]

JOHN C. PARCEL. [SEAL.]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *to wit*:

I, William M. Smith, a notary public in and for the District aforesaid, do hereby certify that Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel, parties to a certain deed bearing date of the twenty-seventh day of September, A. D. 1887, and hereto annexed, personally appeared before me, in the District aforesaid, the said Sayles J. Bowen and John C. Parcel being personally well known to me to be the persons who executed the said deed, and acknowledged the same to be their act and deed.

Given under my hand and notarial seal, this twenty-seventh day of September, A. D. 1887.

WM. M. SMITH,
Notary Public.

Know all men by these presents that I, Sydney C. Long, of Baltimore City, Maryland, for and in consideration of the sum of two thousand dollars in hand paid, do hereby sell, assign, transfer, and convey unto George B. Starkweather, of Washington City, D. C., all my right, title, and interest, being the one undivided fourth part, in and to the guano deposits on "Arcas Cays" or Keys in the Caribbean Sea, in or about latitude 20 degrees fifteen minutes and longitude 92 degrees west, the same having been consigned to me by Dr. Paschal A. Quinan, by deed dated the 5th of September, 1879, and filed in the office of the Department of State at Washington, D. C. This instrument of writing being made by me without warranty, except as against me and my heirs.

Witness my hand and seal this twelfth day of December, 1887.

SYDNEY C. LONG. [SEAL.]

Witness.

MURRAY HANSON.

STATE OF MARYLAND, *Baltimore City, set*:

Be it remembered, and it is hereby certified that, on this 12th day of December, 1887, before the subscriber, a notary public in and for the city of Baltimore aforesaid, personally came Sydney C. Long and acknowledged the foregoing instrument of writing to be his act and deed.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal at Baltimore this 12th day of December, 1887.

[SEAL.]

MURRAY HANSON,
Notary Public.

STATE OF MARYLAND, *Baltimore City, set:*

I hereby certify that Murray Hanson, esq., before whom the annexed acknowledgment was made, was, at the time of so doing, a notary public of the State of Maryland, in and for the city of Baltimore, duly commissioned and sworn, and that to all acts done by him in that capacity full faith and credit are due and ought to be given, and that I am well acquainted with his handwriting and believe that his signature thereto is genuine.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and affix the seal of the superior court of Baltimore City this 28th day of December, A. D. 1887.

[SEAL.]

JAS. BOND,

Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City.

Articles of agreement made and entered into this thirty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, by and between George B. Starkweather, of Washington City, District of Columbia, party of the first part, and John C. Parcel and John O. Silvers, of the same place, parties of the second part, witnesseth:

That whereas the party of the first part now holds legal title to an undivided one-fourth interest in certain guano islands known as "Arcas Cays," three in number, in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about latitude twenty degrees (20) north and longitude ninety-one degrees (91) west;

And whereas the parties of the second part have an equitable claim upon said property under and by virtue of a written agreement with Philip M. Snowden, of Baltimore, Md., dated February 4th, 1887 (and subsequently extended to December 1st, 1887, and since continued indefinitely), and later by virtue of a verbal agreement with the party of the first part by which the party of the first part was to be reimbursed for any moneys which he might disburse in this regard;

Now, therefore, the party of the first part for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, in consideration of the conditions hereinafter agreed to be performed by the parties of the second part, agrees to sell, assign, transfer, and convey to the parties of the second part, their heirs or assigns, all his right, title, and interest in and to said undivided one-fourth interest in the guano islands aforesaid and to make and execute to the parties of the second part their heirs or assigns a good and sufficient deed for the legal conveyance of the same; and

That the parties of the second part for themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns agree to and with the said party of the first part to pay to the party of the first part the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (as a reimbursement for his cash outlay in this regard and one hundred per cent thereon in obtaining possession of said one-fourth interest) out of the first money obtained either by sale of a portion of said one-fourth interest or from the net proceeds of the development of said property and to return to the party of the first part the forty shares of Agassiz park stock (heretofore advanced by the party of the first part as collateral security in the purchase of an additional undivided one-eighth interest in said Arcas Cays), or to pay the party of the first part the face value of the same (two thousand dollars) out of the proceeds of the development of said property as hereinbefore stated; and that in case the parties of the second part do not make sale of any portion of said interest as herein contemplated within the period of sixty days from the date hereof, then and in that event the parties of the second part shall proceed to contract for the development of said property without unnecessary delay and shall pay over to the party of the first part one-half of the net proceeds of such development as may accrue to the parties of the second part from any such contract as fast as the same shall be received by the parties of the second part until the terms of this agreement are fully satisfied and complied with.

Provided, that in case the parties of the second part shall not consummate a sale as herein contemplated, and shall at any time subsequently abandon all effort to develop said property as herein contemplated for the period of sixty days, then this agreement shall be null and void.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this day and year first above written.

GEO. B. STARKWEATHER. [SEAL.]

JOHN C. PARCEL. [SEAL.]

JOHN O. SILVERS. [SEAL.]

Signed and sealed in triplicate in presence of—

M. J. PAYNE,

J. W. WESTFALL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 30, 1890.* (Received July 2.)

SIR: Inclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit a deed or bill of sale from John O. Silvers to John C. Parcel, conveying certain interests in the Arcas Keys guano deposits, for filing in your office.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. PARCEL.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, D. C.

[Inclosure.]

This indenture, made and entered into this twenty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, by and between John O. Silvers, party of the first part, and John C. Parcel, party of the second part, both now of the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, witnesseth:

That the party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to him in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and in further consideration of one dollar in hand paid by the party of the second part to the party of the first part before the en sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which is also hereby acknowledged, the party of the first part, for himself and his heirs, doth hereby bargain, sell, assign, and convey to the party of the second part all his right, title, and interest in and to one undivided one-sixteenth ($\frac{1}{16}$) interest in Arcas Cays guano deposits, lying and being situate in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about lat. twenty degrees (20) north and long. ninety-one (91) west, all of which interest in said Arcas Cays is claimed and held by the party of the first part under and by virtue of sections 5570 to 5578, inclusive, of the Statutes of the United States of America, approved August 10, 1856, and by deeds of assignment and conveyance showing perfect chain of title from Pascal A. Quinan, the original discoverer, to Sidney C. Long, of Baltimore, Md., dated September 6, 1879; from Sidney C. Long to George B. Starkweather, of Washington D. C., dated December 12, 1887, and from George B. Starkweather to John O. Silvers and John C. Parcel, of Washington, D. C., dated December 31, 1887; to have and to hold the same, with all the rights, privileges, rents, profits, and hereditaments thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, unto the sole use and behoof of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever; not subject, however, to such present lien upon said described property as it set forth in said deed from George B. Starkweather to said John C. Parcel and John O. Silvers above described.

Now, the conditions of this deed of assignment and sale is such that whereas the said party of the first part is justly indebted to the said party of the second part in the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) good and lawful money of the United States of America, as witnessed by one certain promissory note of even date herewith, in words and figures as follows, to wit:

\$2,000.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 21, 1889.*

Two years after date I promise to pay to John C. Parcel, or order, two thousand dollars, value received, at the Central National Bank, Washington, D. C.

JOHN O. SILVERS.

Now, therefore, if the said John O. Silvers, party of the first part, aforesaid, shall well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, the above-described promissory note according to the terms therein set forth, then this obligation and deed of assignment, sale, and conveyance shall be absolutely null and void and of no effect whatever either in law or equity. Otherwise this obligation and deed of sale, assignment, and conveyance shall be and remain in full force and effect, both in law and equity, as a deed of assignment, sale, and conveyance, and shall vest the title in said property absolutely in the said John C. Parcel, party of the second part, aforesaid, and his legal representatives, without further assignment or sale.

In witness whereof I, John O. Silvers, party of the first part, have hereunto set my hand and seal at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this day and year first above written.

JOHN O. SILVERS. [SEAL.]

Attest:

J. B. WEIR.

JOHN A. JEWELL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 30, 1890.*

For value received, two thousand dollars, and for the further sum of five dollars cash in hand paid before the ensembling and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I hereby sell, assign, transfer, and convey to Mary A. Parcel all my right, title, and interest in and to the within-described property.

Witness my hand and seal this day and year above written.

JOHN C. PARCEL. [SEAL.]

Attest:

ROBERT R. ROBERTS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *July 8, 1890.* (Received July 8.)

SIR: Inclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit for filing in your Department a deed from Sayles J. Bowen to John C. Parcel, conveying certain interests in the Arcas Keys guano deposits.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. PARCEL.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington, D. C.*

[Inclosure.]

This indenture, made this eighteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, by and between Sayles J. Bowen, of Washington City, in the District of Columbia, and John C. Parcel, of the same place, witnesseth:

That for and in consideration of the sum of two thousand dollars in hand paid as hereinafter designated, and in consideration of the further sum of one dollar in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said Sayles J. Bowen, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, doth hereby bargain, sell, assign, transfer, and convey to the said John C. Parcel, his heirs and assigns, all his right, title, and interest in and to one undivided one-sixteenth ($\frac{1}{16}$) interest in certain guano deposits lying and being on three cays known as the "Arcas Cays," situate, lying, and being in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about lat. (20) twenty degrees north, long. (91) ninety-one degrees west, (which said undivided one-sixteenth interest is now held in equal partnership by the parties hereto) together with all the rights, privileges, and appurtenances, and all the rents, profits, and hereditaments thereunto belonging or in anywise or way appertaining.

To have and to hold the same to the said John C. Parcel, his heirs and assigns forever.

Provided always, and the foregoing conveyance is upon this express condition: That the said John C. Parcel shall pay or cause to be paid three certain promissory notes; two of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) each, and one of fifteen hundred (\$1,500) dollars, all given to Philip M. Snowden Sept. 10, 1887, due in four months after date, to each of which the said Sayles J. Bowen affixed his name; and shall keep the said Sayles J. Bowen free and harmless from the payment of the same, or cause it to be done, and shall so arrange with Philip M. Snowden as to satisfy him in the matter.

In witness whereof I have hereunto my hand and seal this 18th day of January A. D. 1888.

[SEAL.]

SAYLES J. BOWEN.

Attest:

EDWARD A. PAUL, Sr.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

On this 23d day of January, 1888, before me personally appeared Sayles J. Bowen, known to me to be the party who signed and executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed for the purposes therein expressed.

[SEAL.]

BENJ. F. HAWKES,
Notary Public.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 6, 1891.* (Received June 8.)

SIR: I have the honor to herewith transmit deed of assignment from Philip M. Snowden to myself, dated May 29, 1891, of his interest in Arcas Cays guano islands, Gulf of Mexico, for filing in your office.

Also copy of said deed of assignment, with the request that I be furnished certificate of copy attached thereto.

Respectfully, etc.,

J. W. TAYLOR.

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

This deed, made this 29th day of May, A. D. 1891, by Philip M. Snowden, of Washington, D. C., witnesseth: That for and in consideration of the sum of fifty thousand dollars in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said Philip M. Snowden doth hereby grant, bargain, sell, assign, and convey unto John W. Taylor, of the same place, his heirs, and assigns all his right, title, and interest under the United States law and in particular his certain five-eighths interest in and to the following described property, viz: In and to the guano deposits situated, lying, and being upon the three islands or cays called and known as "Arcas Cays," situate, lying, and being in the Gulf of Mexico in or about lat. 20 N., and long. 91 W., all of which cays, being three in number, are claimed and held by the assigns of one Dr. Pascal A. Quinan under the U. S. Statutes approved August 18, 1856, and acts amendatory thereof, to him the said John W. Taylor, his heirs, and assigns as aforesaid forever together with all wharves, buildings, improvements, and appurtenances thereto belonging and the rights, ways, waters, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, to have and to hold forever as aforesaid.

And the said Philip M. Snowden covenants that he will warrant and defend the property hereby conveyed at all times against all lawful claims, and that he will at any time on demand execute such further assurance as may be necessary.

Witness my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

PHILIP M. SNOWDEN. [SEAL.]

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of—

M. P. CALLAN.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *County of Washington, ss:*

I, M. P. Callan, a notary public in and for the District aforesaid, do hereby certify that Philip M. Snowden, party to a certain conveyance foregoing, personally appeared before me in the District aforesaid, and that the said Philip M. Snowden being personally well known to me to be the person who executed said deed and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this 29th day of May, A. D. 1891.

[SEAL.]

MICH. P. CALLAN,
Notary Public.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *October 10, 1891.* (Received October 12.)

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find deeds for a one sixty-fourth interest in guano deposits on Arcas Keys, which please put on file with papers relating to those islands, and send certified copies of said deeds to me.

Yours very respectfully,

J. R. FAGAN,
327 K street, NE.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE, U. S. A.

[Inclosure.]

ASSIGNMENT.

This assignment, made this 1st day of July, 1891, by Mary A. Parcel, of Tuscola, Ills., widow of John C. Parcel, deceased, late of Washington, D. C., and Bruce M. Parcel, son of said deceased, they being the only heirs and sole legatees under the last will and testament of said J. C. Parcel, deceased, witnesseth:

That for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said Mary A. Parcel, widow, and Bruce M. Parcel, son of John C. Parcel, deceased, do hereby grant, bargain, sell, assign, and convey unto Joseph R. Fagan, of Washington, D. C., his heirs and assigns forever, all their right, title, and interest under the U. S. law in and to a one sixty-fourth ($\frac{1}{64}$) interest to certain guano deposits, situate, lying, and being upon the three islands or cays called and known as Arcas Cays, situated in the Gulf of Mexico, in or about lat. 20 N., and long. 91 W., together with all rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto belonging, the said one sixty-fourth ($\frac{1}{64}$) interest, being the same interest assigned by John C. Parcel to said Joseph R. Fagan on Feb'y 8, 1889, which assignment was not acknowledged before a notary, and which this indenture is intended to secure unto said Joseph R. Fagan, his heirs and assigns forever. And said Mary A. Parcel and Bruce M. Parcel further agree to execute such further assurances as may be necessary.

Witness their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

MARY A. PARCEL. [SEAL.]

BRUCE M. PARCEL. [SEAL.]

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of—

A. W. WALLACE,

F. W. HAMMETT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 8, 1889.

This is to certify that for and in consideration of one hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents, paid in hand by Joseph R. Fagan, I hereby sell and assign to said Fagan one sixty-fourth ($\frac{1}{64}$) interest in certain islands in the Gulf of Mexico known as the Arcas Cays guano deposits, reserving a vendor's lien upon said property for the sum of one hundred and fifty-three dollars, which sum is to be paid out of the sale or development of said property, and in case the said sum is paid out of the proceeds of development one-half of said net proceeds shall be set aside for that purpose until said sum one hundred and fifty-three dollars is paid and fully discharged.

JOHN C. PARCEL,

Attest:

H. W. SELAH.

